be annually imported from outside and that the large amount spent on account of transport charges on the imported salt went to swell the pockets of foreign contractors. He then described in detail the condition of the various salt factories in the State and deplored the lack of interest displayed by the officers of the department in increasing the production of indigenous salt. Of the five old *Allams*, the one at Thattarippu *odai* had already been closed for want of water. The Variyur *Allam* was about to be closed owing to the failure of Government to effect the necessary repairs. The remaining *Allams* at Thamarakulam, Rajakkamangalam and Colachel would also become extinct owing to the necessary repairs not being executed and for want of drainage. The owners of the old *Allams* were not given sufficient encouragement in the matter of their *kudivaram* and they were, therefore, indifferent in the manufacture of salt. As regards the new *Allams* the authorities did not insist on the contractors carrying out the stipulated works. An area of 20 acres fit for salt manufacture was lying waste adjoining the Puthalam. Similar areas were also available near the Puthalam Extension factory. The Cape Comorin factory stood in need of brine. Three years ago a channel was ordered to be constructed in respect of the latter for letting in salt water at the cost of the contractors. But nothing further had been done. In regard to Mr. Sankaramurthi Pillay's Factory, it was started on a site approved by Government for salt manufacture. But a very large sum had to be spent on it for want of expert advice, before salt could be successfully manufactured. Mr. Karayalar's factory on which the owner, Mr. Subramonia Karayalar, had incurred very heavy expenditure, was promising and people hoped that, in time, it would be in a position to supply the whole quantity of salt required for consumption in the country; but it was surprising to hear that the authorities had recommended that, in order to connect it with the lake, a bund constructed by the owner at enormous cost should be demolished. The Member stated that there was a large area of *tharisu* lands fit for salt culture but lying waste at Thamarakulam and Rajakkamangalom. They consisted of (1) lands assigned for salt manufacture, but subsequently relinquished, (2) lands assigned for the purpose but not cultivated owing to the indifference of the authorities to enforce the contract and (3) lands encroached upon by the adjoining land-holders. Those lands could be profitably auctioned for the manufacture of salt. All that was required to increase the production of salt was that the owners of the old *Allams* should be encouraged by Government by effecting the necessary repairs and improvements in their *Allams* and by the grant of a legitimate share to them as *kudivaram*. In respect of the new *Allams*, the contractors should be required to carry out all works in pursuance of their agreements. Government should encourage them by affording the requisite facilities for water and by paying them at a uniform rate of $3\frac{1}{2}$ *fanams* per *maund* of salt supplied by them. The appointment of a Salt Commissioner to give expert advice and to control and supervise the department was also essential.

The Member objected to the recovery of the transport charges amounting to six annas per *maund* from those who purchased salt direct from the *Allams*, and requested that the price of local salt should be reduced by that amount in their cases.

Lastly, the Member dwelt upon the present defects in the administration of the Salt Department. He objected to the amalgamation of the Salt Department with the Excise Department and urged the need for separating it and placing it under the control of a separate officer who must be an expert in regard to salt culture. He also urged the need for the appointment of a Committee to enquire into the whole question of salt manufacture and the development of salt industry with a view to increase the production of local salt.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

(4) Excise and Customs.

25. Need for granting a larger number of sweet toddy licenses.

Mr. V. R. Kochunni Vaidyan (Member, Nominated) represented that, while in the Southern Division no license was required for tapping sweet toddy in Nagercoil, Shencottah, &c., the license was insisted on in North Travancore. As there were

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palmyra trees in large numbers in South Travancore standing close to each other, certain trees were being used for sweet toddy and others for ordinary toddy. Perhaps the objection to his request being granted was that in North Travancore it might lead to illicit tapping. In that case, the same objection ought to apply more forcibly to South Travancore than to North Travancore on account of the larger number of trees in the former. The reason urged that, if a larger number of sweet toddy licenses be granted, there would be illicit tapping on a large scale ought not to weigh, because it was the duty of the Excise Department to find out cases of illicit tapping and bring the offenders to book. More sweet toddy licenses were not being given, because there was no substantial revenue from that source. Revenue alone ought not to be the aim of Government. In the interests of the people the subject-matter of his representation was more important and it was even desirable to abolish altogether tapping for ordinary toddy. Tapping for sweet toddy should be freely allowed just like the cultivation of sugarcane, for, poor people required sweet toddy. The Member, therefore, requested that all restrictions be removed or at least a larger number of licenses freely issued for tapping for sweet toddy.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

26. Pambanar arrack shop.

Mr. W. A. J. Milner (Member, Central Travancore Planters' Association) said that a very large market was being held every Sunday at Pambanar and coolies from every estate in the district were attending it. There was naturally a thriving trade done at the arrack shop now located at Pambanar and drunkenness and disorderliness were the result. There was no attempt to restrict sales in the shop or to close it on market days. He, therefore, asked that, as the shop was solely patronised by estate coolies, it might be removed altogether. Referring to Government letter dated 4th November 1918, he pointed out that the shop was not really supplying the needs of the local population. The large demand came solely from the estate coolies and, as it was the estate population alone who would feel the hardship by the removal of the shop, his Association felt that that was not a valid objection.

Again, apart from the trouble caused amongst estate coolies generally on market days, the annoyance to Pambanar estate itself was intolerable. The shop was open at all hours and coolies were being supplied with drink at any hour of the day or night when they liked to go and get it. They were frequently seen coming out of the place in a condition to be a danger to themselves and other people. Coolies even used to steal firewood in order to sell it and buy arrack and, whenever coolies from other estates were too drunk to go home, they were deposited in the Pambanar estate as the arrack shop was practically on the estate and within a few yards of the Pambanar Factory, where they either lay helpless or started fighting. There had arisen many serious cases which had to be reported to the Police. Thus, the continuance of the shop was a serious public scandal and urgent action was required. There would be no hardship to any of the local inhabitants by its removal, as there was a shop at Arudai—a mile or two away—which could supply all legitimate demands. If the market could also be moved to Arudai, that would settle the whole matter. He, therefore, prayed for the removal of the shop.

He added that, apart from the particular shop, Government should really consult the various Planters' Associations in the matter of liquor shops in Planting Districts as a whole, and, following the practice of the Madras Government, should always in future obtain their views particularly before renewing the licenses of existing shops and also before issuing new licenses, and that his request had the strongest support of the other Planting delegates present and of all Travancore Planting Associations.

Dewan's reply.—Necessary instructions have been issued to the Commissioner of Police and the Excise Commissioner to see that close supervision is exercised over the people who resort to the shop. I understand that Mr. Wright, Mr. Vincent and the Member are to meet the Excise Commissioner and represent their views. That

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